14. Rs. 2,000 under "28-Public Works—B-8 (Votable)"

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 2,000 under "28-Public Works—B-8 (Votable)". The object of this allotment is to find money to entertain some staff for the hydro-electric works in connection with the supply of power from Pallivasal. I request the House may be pleased to grant the allotment.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Sir, may I request the hon'ble member to explain why the amount is necessary?

Mr. President: The details are given in the note to the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* The hon'ble member can inform the House what exactly are the duties of the special engineer. A little more explanation may be given regarding the necessity for the grant.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Sir, I too want some information. Is it the idea of the Government to establish a separate department and if so, under whom is it going to work? What is the pay of the engineer specially appointed for this purpose? Shall we have also some rough idea of the whole scheme? May I know whether the Government have actually entered into the agreement? What will be the commitments of the Government in future and what are the probable advantages which the State is expected to have by going in for this supply from Pallivasal? This being the first time that a demand of this nature comes before the House and since the public are very much interested in the whole question, I would request the Government to divulge a few more general facts.

Mr. President: With regard to the actual agreement with the Travancore Government, there are some technical difficulties in actually giving out the terms of the agreement at this stage. An agreement between the two Indian States cannot be made public except with the consent of His Excellency the Crown Representative. Therefore, until that formality has been passed through, the actual text of the agreement cannot be legally made public. I may say for the information of the House that, as a result of long discussions that we had, we have come to certain tentative conclusions with the Travancore Government, and these tentative conclusions are being drafted in the form of a legal agreement, which in course of time will be submitted to His Excellency the Crown Representative for

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ratification. As soon as that is done, Government will have no objection to place the entire text of the agreement before the House, so that the House may know full details under which we are purchasing power from Pallivasal. But we did not want to wait taking action until all these formalities are gone through. For one thing, it is very difficult to get the necessary materials from abroad, and early steps have to be taken. We thought, therefore, that we may proceed with all these preliminary works, and before calling for the actual tenders for the various works, specifications and estimates have to be prepared, which is a very responsible work. Now we have no one specially qualified to undertake this work, and so what we did was, we have appointed on a temporary basis an Assistant Electrical Engineer in the grade of Rs. 200—400, and we have given him the maximum of Rs. 400 in view of his qualifications. He has to be given the assistance of some staff to carry out the work, and that has been enumerated in the note to the Standing Finance Committee. The Assistant Electrical Engineer has already prepared the specifications for the construction of transmission lines, and for the switch gear, transformers, etc. We have sent out these specifications for the purpose of tenders. All these preliminary works we wanted to go through before the actual formalities are gone through, and it is our intention really to have a special sub-department as it were under the Chief Engineer just as we have got the Mechanical Assistant Engineer. But what exactly will be the permanent arrangements that we will have to make ultimately is a matter which we have not decided finally, because we ought to know more details about the nature of the work, etc. Anyhow, with the purchase of power from Pallivasal on a large scale, there would be need for an Assistant Electrical Engineer. We have just appointed an officer with minimum staff temporarily for carrying out the preliminary work. That exactly is the position.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know, Sir, why the pay of the Assistant Engineer is not shown in the additional allotment?

Mr. President: The Assistant Engineer's pay is non-votable.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Sir, I perfectly understand the difficulties of Government in making public at this stage the agreement with the Travancore Government, because the matter is pending approval of the Crown Representative. But one point strikes me. In all these matters, only after the matter is finished, the House can get possession of information. In the coming years, when we are marching more and more towards the progressive realisation of responsible government, it would be in the nature of things necessary for us also to know the facts in the beginning itself

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and to give suggestions for the consideration of Government. There is no use of facing the Legislature with a *fait accompli*. After the thing is over, the Legislative Council can do nothing. We can simply read and enjoy it. There must be some machinery devised and I do not think, the present Government is not incapable of it, so that we may have the right of increasing association of the representatives of the people with Government in all their activities. I do not want to put any difficulties in the way. As we now stand, we trust our Diwan fully in the matter, that he will do everything that he thinks best for us. In the Council as well as in the country outside, there is always a feeling that we are being taken more and more into the confidence of the Government and I only make this appeal, so that the policy to be pursued in full responsible government may not be lost sight of. Sooner or later, all these officers will have to be out, and if we have no experience in dealing with confidential matters like this, we will be at a disadvantage. Therefore, I make these observations.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Ezhuvas-Trichur):* Sir, when the whole budget is presented before the House even non-votable items are placed before it. Though not actually voted upon, the amount is shown there.

Mr. President: We are not presenting a budget now.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Ezhuvas-Trichur):* Though not the actual budget, these are supplementaries to the budget. Non-votable items may be marked in italics. Nevertheless, they should pass through the House.

Mr. President: We will follow that procedure in future.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know whether this particular staff of the Assistant Engineer is only to prepare the details of the scheme or whether this section will form the nucleus of a future electrical department? What I want to know is whether Government have any idea of undertaking the distribution themselves or whether the Trichur Municipality in Trichur and the Chandrie & Co. in Ernakulam will be the distributors ?

Mr. President: The existing licensees will be given power in bulk. Government are not going to distribute it.

Demand put and carried

15. Rs. 1,500 under "18—Police—Motor boat charges"

Rao Bahadur M. Narayana Menon *(Commissioner of Police:)* Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 1,500 under "18—Police—Motor Boat Charges". The necessity for this

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